

Message Text

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ACTION H-02

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FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

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INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L AMMAN 0521

TEL AVIV PLEASE PASS SENATOR PERCY

USCINCEUR FOR ECPA

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: FPRO, OVIP (PERCY, SENATOR CHARLES), JO, XF

SUBJECT: VISIT OF SENATOR PERCY TO JORDAN

REF: AMMAN 479

1. SENATOR AND MRS. PERCY, ACCOMPANIED BY STAFF MEMBERS FENTRESS AND MEISSNER, ARRIVED AT RAMTHA BORDER POST FROM DAMASCUS 1100 JANUARY 20. AFTER BRIEF STATEMENT TO LOCA MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES, CODEL, ACCOMPANIED BY AMBASSADOR AND EMBASSY CONTROL OFFICER, CONTINUED TO AMMAN.

2. AFTER LUNCH AT RESIDENCE, SENATOR, FENTRESS AND AMBASSADOR HAD SEPARATE MEETINGS WITH KING HUSSEIN, PRIME MINISTER RIFAI AND GENERAL KHAMMASH, FORMER KING'S COUNSELOR FOR POLITICAL
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AFFAIRS. FOLLOWING INFORMAL RECEPTION AT RESIDENCE FOR

AMERICAN STAFF OF EMBASSY, SENATOR AND MRS. PERCY WERE GUESTS OF HONOR AT DINNER HOSTED BY PM AND ATTENDED BY KING AND QUEEN AND OTHER PROMINENT GOJ OFFICIALS.

3. MORNING OF JANUARY 21 CODEL WAS GUEST OF CROWN PRINCE HASSAN AND PRINCESS SARVATH AT BREAKFAST FOLLOWED BY HELICOPTER TRIP TO PETRA. ON ROUTE, CODEL FLEW OVER WADI ARABA AND HIGHLAND AGRICULTURAL PROJECT SITES. ON RETURNING TO AMMAN, SENATOR AND AMBASSADOR VISITED JORDAN UNIVERISYT, CALLED ON PRESIDENT, AND HAD BRIEF TOUR OF ROYAL SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY FACILITIES.

4. EVENING OF JANUARY 21 SENATOR MET WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF LOCAL MEDIA FOR STATEMENT ABOUT HIS VISIT TO JORDAN AND QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION (REFTEL. CODEL THEN ATTENDED DINNER AT RESIDENCW WHICH INCLUDED CROWN PRINCE AND SEVERAL OTHER KEY GOJ OFFICIALS. SENATOR AND PARTY LEFT JORDAN MORNING OF JANUARY 22, TRAVELING TO ISRAEL VIA KING HUSSEIN BRIDGE.

5. LOCAL PRESS GAVE PROMINENT COVERAGE TO SENATOR'S ACTIVITIES HERE. HIS REMARKS ON ARRIVAL AND STATEMENT TO MEDIA WERE CARRIED IN ENTIRETY BY AMMAN DAILYS AND JORDAN TELEVISION NEWS COVERED STATEMENT AND LIVELY, BUT FRIENDLY, QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION.

6. IN PUBLIC STATEMENTS, SENATOR STRESSED HIS IMPRESSION GLEANED FROM MIDDLE EAST TOUR THAT ARABS STRONGLY DESIRE PEACE, MESSAGE HE SAID HE WOULD TAKE BACK TO AMERICAN LEADERS. SENATOR SAID HE ALSO NOTICED AMONG ARAB LEADERS A WIDESPREAD RECOGNITION THAT THE STATE OF ISRAEL HAS RIGHT TO EXIST, AS WELL AS GREAT SUPPORT FOR SECRETARY'S STEP-BY-STEP APPROACH. MAJOR TASK FOR DIPLOMACY IN AREA, NOTED SENATOR, IS TO STRENGTHEN MODERATES ON ALL SIDES WHO CAN COMBINE THEESE POINTS OF VIEW INTO CONSTRUCTIVE SETTLEMENT.

7. IN PRESS CONFERENCE, SENATOR GAVE STATEMENT WHICH BALANCED AMERICAN SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL SHOULD DISASTROUS FIFTH WAR BE IMPOSED UPON IT WITHOUT PROVOKATION, AGAINST HIS PERSONAL OPINION THAT ISRAEL CANNOT EXPECT TO RETAIN CONFIDENTIAL

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OCCUPIED TERRITORIES AND AT SAME TIME HAVE LASTING PEACE. ISRAELIS, HOWEVER, WISH TO HAVE THEIR SOVEREIGNTY RECOGNIZED, SAID SENATOR, AND CURRENT ARAB MAPS OF MIDDLE EAST DO NOT SHOW A STATE OF ISRAEL. YET SIGNS OF COMPROMISE ARE EVIDENT ON BOTH SIDES.

8. IN PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS WITH KING HUSSEIN, SENATOR MADE CLEAR THAT IF ISRAEL IS ATTACKED BY

ARABS, U.S. WOULD PROVIDE FULL SUPPORT, BUT THAT HE
LET ISRAELIS KNOW THAT IF ISRAEL PRE-EMPTED AGAINST
ARABS OR PROVOKED ARABS INTO ATTACK, HE WOULD WORK
ACTIVELY AGAINST U.S. SUPPORT. WOULD DO SAME IF ISRAEL
FAILED TO SEIZE OPPORTUNITY TO NEGOTIATE. SENATOR NOTED
ALSO THAT HE WOULD WORK TO BUILD STRONG SENATOR
CONSENSUS IN SUPPORT OF PRESIDENT/VICE PRESIDENT AND
SECRETARY IN THEIR EFFORTS TO BRING PEACE TO MIDDLE EAST.
PICKERING

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